

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 22 with the following:

A *S. pombe* strain (leu1-32, -ura4-D18) was transformed with the vector. A uracil-unrequiring strain capable of forming colonies on the minimum medium was collected. Analysis of the genomic DNA using PCR amplification designed so as to amplify DNA fragments only when the intended gene was disrupted confirmed disruption of the aminopeptidase gene SPAC4F10.02 ~~SPC4F10.02~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 20 with the following:

The name of the gene: Dipeptidyl aminopeptidase gene ~~SPC14C4.15~~ SPAC14C4.15c (dipeptidyl aminopeptidase)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 20 with the following:

The name of the gene: Zinc protease gene SPACUNK4.12c ~~SPCUNK4.12e~~ (putative zinc-protease)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 2 with the following:

The name of the gene: CAAX prenyl protease I gene SPAC3H1.05 ~~SPC3H1.05~~ (putative CAAX prenyl protease)